



BOROUGH
OF
PONTFRACT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1956

B O R O U G H
O F
P O N T E F R A C T

A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E Y E A R
1 9 5 6

B Y
J . F . F R A S E R
M . B . , B . S . , D . P . H . , D . O b s t . , R . C . O . G .

Medical Officer's Section,
Health Department,
Baghill House,
Walkergate,
Pontefract.

To The Mayor, Alderman and Councillors
of the Borough of Pontefract.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

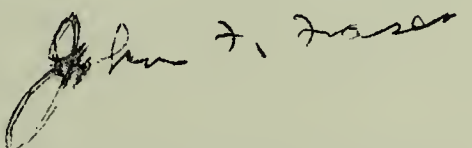
I have the honour to present for your information
and consideration a Report on the Health and Health
Services of the Borough during the year 1956.

The Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector
dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough,
Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies,
is complementary to this Report.

For your information certain details of the personal
health services administered by the County Council are
included.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John F. Rose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Medical Officer of Health.

PONTEFRACT BOROUGH

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE - 1956.

Chairman: Ald. B. Wood.

Vice-Chairman: Cr. G.E. Poppleton.

Ald. J. Blackburn, O.B.E.

Ald. T.W. Hill.

Ald. J. Rhodes.

Cr. T.P. Brindley, O.B.E., J.P.

Cr. R. Cunningham.

Cr. A.S. Dobson.

Cr. C. Dyer.

Cr. J.H. Masterman.

Cr. Mrs. V. Pritchard.

Cr. J. Walton.

Cr. A. Ward (Mayor)

P A R T O N E
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the Borough: 4,865 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population: 24,540.

Number of inhabited houses(end of 1956)according to
Rate books: 7,279.

Rateable Value: 1956 - £247,919.

Sum Represented by penny rate: 1956 - £1,029.

VITAL STATISTICS. (Registrar-General's - Registered during the year)

The figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 1955.

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	219 {229}	254 {195}	473 {424}
Illegitimate	8 {10}	9 {8}	17 {18}
Total	<u>227 (239)</u>	<u>263 (203)</u>	<u>490 (442)</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population 20.0 (18.1)

Percentage of illegitimate births 3.47 (4.07)

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	7 {13}	2 {9}	9 {22}
Illegitimate	- {-}	- {-}	- {-}
Total	<u>7 (13)</u>	<u>2 (9)</u>	<u>9 (22)</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 18.0 (47.4)

Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population 0.35. (0.90)

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All age groups	121 (127)	105 (97)	226 (224)
<u>Infants under 1 yr.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	6 {7}	3 {5}	9 {12}
Illegitimate	- {-}	- {1}	- {1}
Total	<u>6 (7)</u>	<u>3 (6)</u>	<u>9 (13)</u>

Maternal Deaths One (Nil)

Death Rates.

General rate per 1,000 population	9.2	(9 .2)
All infants per 1,000 live births	18.4	(29.4)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	19.0	(28.3)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil	(55.1)
Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births	2.00	(Nil)

The principal causes of death are set out in the following Table.

T A B L E I.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis Respiratory	2	1	3
Syphilitic disease	2	-	2
Other infective and Paralytic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	2	3	5
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	5	-	5
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	-	4	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	9	13
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	22	29	51
Coronary Disease, Angina	26	5	31
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2	3
Other Heart Diseases	10	17	27
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	4	7
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	6	6	12
Bronchitis	17	3	20
Other diseases of Respiratory System	4	3	7
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital Malformations	3	2	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	3	8
Motor Vehicle accidents	4	1	5
All other accidents	1	6	7
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	1	1
	121	105	226

The local death rate during the past 13 years is shown in the following Table.

<u>Years</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
1944 - 1946	10.8
1947 - 1949	10.0
1950	10.9
1951	10.5
1952	14.7
1953	16.2
1954	10.5
1955	9.2
1956	9.2

Infant Mortality

The following table gives causes of infant deaths during the year 1956, classified into age groups.

T A B L E II

Cause of Death.	Age Groups							All ages under 1 yr		
	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wk.	3-4 wk.	1-3 mth.	3-6 mth.	6-9 mth.	9-12 mth.	M.	F.	Tot.
Multiple Congenital anomalies	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Congenital Heart Lesion. Exact nature unknown	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Acute Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
Haemorrhagic Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Prematurity	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Congenital absence kidneys	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Congenital Abnormality	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Prematurity	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	6	1	-	-	1	1	-	6	3	9

COMPARISON OF PONTEFRAC T VITAL STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST RIDING AREAS, THE WEST RIDING ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY, AND ENGLAND AND WALES.

	Ponte- fract Borough	Aggregate West Rid- ing Urban Districts.	West Riding Admin. County.	England & Wales (pro- visional figures).
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	20.0	15.8	16.4	15.7
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population) All Causes.	9.2	12.6	11.8	11.7
Infective & Para. Dis. Excl. Tub. but incl. Syph. and other V.D.	0.12.	0.07	0.07	*
Tuberculosis Respiratory	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.11
Tuberculosis Other	Nil	0.01	0.02	0.01
Tuberculosis All Forms	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.12
Cancer	1.26	2.05	1.89	2.08
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	2.08	2.05	1.86	*
Heart and Circulatory	2.77	4.76	4.47	*
Respiratory Diseases	1.63	1.37	1.29	*
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 live and still births).	2.00	0.69	0.52	0.56
Infant Mortality	18.4	25.9	27.1	23.8
Still Births (per 1,000 live and still births)	18.0	23.5	23.1	23.0

* figures not available.

P A R T T W O.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIVE AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table gives details of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis).

T A B L E IV.

	Jan/ Mar.	Apr/ Jun.	Jul/ Sep.	Oct/ Dec.	Tot.	Deaths.	No. of cases admitted to Hos.
Scarlet Fever	2	1	-	3	6	-	4
Whooping Cough	31	31	15	9	86	-	13
Measles	1	-	6	32	39	-	2
Pneumonia	1	-	-	5	6	-	-
Dysentery	10	7	22	6	45	-	20
Chicken- Pox	10	14	36	240	300	-	3
Meningococcal Infection	2	-	-	-	2	-	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	4	4	-	3
	57	53	79	299	488	-	47

Diphtheria

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year.

Immunisation

265 children under the age of 5 years and 219 over the age of 5 years received a full course of primary immunisation against the disease. In addition 1,113 children received a reinforcing injection.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table summarises particulars contained in the Register of tuberculous persons.

T A B L E V.

Number of cases in Register:	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Total in Register
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
At the commencement of 1956.	101	88	17	24	230
Notified for the first time during 1956	11	4	1	1	17
Transfers - Inward	1	-	1	1	3
Removed from Register	7	5	-	2	14
At the end of 1956	106	87	19	24	236

The reasons for removal of cases from the Register are given in the following Table.

T A B L E VI.

Entries relating to:	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Persons who have died	5	-	-	-	5
Persons certified by the medical practitioner in attendance to have recovered.	-	-	-	2	2
Persons who have ceased to reside permanently in the district.	2	5	-	-	7
	7	5	-	2	14

In the following Table new cases and mortality are classified according to age, sex and site of the disease.

T A B L E VII

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Under 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 35	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 45	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Under 55	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Under 65	3	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
Over 65	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Total	11	4	1	1	5	-	-	-

National Assistance Act.
Section 47

It was not found necessary to deal with any
patients under the above act.



Part III.

C O U N T Y C O U N C I L
O F T H E
W E S T R I D I N G O F Y O R K S H I R E

=====

DIVISION 12

=====

Pontefract Municipal Borough
Featherstone Urban District
Knottingley Urban District
Osgoldcross Rural District

=====

A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
D I V I S I O N A L M E D I C A L O F F I C E R
1956

BY
J.F. FRASER,
M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Divisional Staff at 31.12.56.

Divisional Medical Officer

J.F. FRASER, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst. R.C.O.G.

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer
and School Medical Officer.

G.M. Mayhall, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Assistant County Medical Officer and
School Medical Officer

J.C. White, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H.

Health Visitors and School Nurses

Miss E.M. Atkinson,	Miss M.H. Osborne.
Mrs. P.M. Brice.	Miss B.K. Porter.
Mrs. M. Faulkner.	Miss H. Theobald.
Miss B.N. Kennington.	Mrs. M.K. Walsh.

Assistant Health Visitors

Miss L.O.I. Day	Mrs. J.K. Smith (Clinic Nurse)
Miss M.W. Thornley.	

Tuberculosis Health Visitor

Mrs. E.W. Petch.

Midwives.

Miss K. Ault.	Mrs. A.M. Randall.
Mrs. A. Atack.	Miss C.A. Roberts.
Mrs. I. Bushell.	Mrs. W. Tame.
Mrs. E. Glover (relief)	Mrs. J.R. Wilford.
Mrs. B. Lister.	Miss M. Wright.
Miss C. Norton.	

Home Nurses

Mrs. R.L. Copestake.	Miss E. Lumley.
Miss A. Elsley.	Mrs. A. Moiser.
Mrs. F. Green	Miss M. Reading.
Miss E. Leach (relief)	

Home Nurse-Midwives.

Miss B.M. Butterworth.	Miss J. Redfearn.
------------------------	-------------------

Mental Health Social Worker

Mrs. M. Myers

Mental Health Home Teacher

Mrs. G.J. Argile.

Speech Therapist

Miss K. Wade.

Duly Authorised Officer

Mr. R.F.H. Battye

Senior Clerk

Mr. W. Carver.

INTRODUCTION

In this section is given a brief account of the services provided by the West Riding County Council as a whole, under Part III of the National Health Services Act.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of live births registered in the Divisional area during 1956 was 1073 (533 males and 540 females), an increase of 58 compared with the previous year.

The CRUDE BIRTH RATE, 18.7 per thousand of the estimated population compared with 17.8 for the previous year was well above the West Riding Administrative County rate of 16.4 and the England and Wales birth rate of 15.7.

Deaths

The deaths assigned to the Divisional area after correction for transfers were 539 (301 males and 238 females), an increase of 10 compared with 1955.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE from all causes was 9.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 9.3 for the previous year. Here again the death rate compares favourably with that for the West Riding Administrative Area which is 11.8 and for England and Wales 11.7.

Infant Mortality

In 1956 the deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 24, a decrease of six compared with the previous year. The infant mortality rate was 22.4 as against 22.8 in the previous year.

Maternal Mortality

There was one maternal death in the Divisional area during the year.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES

Domiciliary Midwifery

Of the 1083 notified live births, 541 were delivered by domiciliary midwives, the private doctors being present in 57 of these cases.

Notifications

The following notifications were received from midwives practicing in the division:

Death of Child	4
Still Births	8
Artificial Feeding	88
Liability to be a	1
Source of Infection	

Medical Assistance

Medical aid notices sent in by midwives during 1956 numbered 111, all of these being domiciliary.

Gas and Air Analgesia

All the domiciliary midwives held the certificate in gas and air analgesia administration and were equipped with the necessary apparatus.

Gas and air analgesia only was given in 57 cases. Pethidine only was given in 106 cases, and gas and air and pethidine was given in 278 cases.

Ante-Natal Clinics

There are four Ante-Natal Clinics in the division which are held at Pontefract, Featherstone, Knottingley and Ferrybridge, and during the year 523 patients attended, of which 455 were new patients. The total number of attendances was 2990.

At all of these clinics post-natal examinations are carried out and 173 patients were examined post-natally during the year.

Relaxation Classes.

Relaxation classes for expectant mothers are held at the Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley Clinics.

These have continued to be well attended and the number of attendances at these clinics during the year was 603.

Institutional Midwifery

Patients from this division are admitted either to the Castleford Maternity Home or to the Southmoor Maternity Unit, Hemsworth.

No difficulty has been experienced regarding maternity accommodation, although it has not always been possible to secure admission to the hospital of the patient's choice. Due to travelling difficulties there is a preference for the Castleford Maternity Home, although our allocation of beds is much smaller than at Southmoor.

CHILD WELFARE

In this division, Infant Welfare sessions are held at seven fixed premises. The Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley Clinics are County owned premises, whilst the ones at Carleton, Ferrybridge, Streethouse and Beal are held in hired premises.

In August of this year the County Council brought into operation a mobile clinic which visits four parishes hitherto without Child Welfare services in the Osgoldcross Rural District. These have proved very popular.

The following proprietary preparations were available at cost price to all women attending the clinics:

Ostermilk	Virol
Trufood	Maltoline
Cow & Gate	Farex
Ovaltine	Scotts Twin Pack
Glucose 'D'	Robinson's Groats
Horlicks	Robinson's Patent Barley
Minadex	Colact
Lactagol	Robrex
Bemax	Robsoup
Cerex	Bovril Weaning Food
Trufood Cereal	Roboleine

The following were distributed free of charge:-

I.C.D. Tablets	Ferrous Sulphate Tablets
Viteolin Tablets	A & D Liquid.
Vitamin 'C'	Lactation Tablets.

I wish to express my thanks to the ladies of the Voluntary Committees at the clinics for all the work they have done during the year.

Premature Babies

During the year 81 babies weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less were born in hospitals or nursing homes to mothers normally resident in the division and 21 were born at home.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Medical Inspections.

The periodic medical examination of the four age groups, i.e. entrants (5 years +) second age group (7 years +) intermediates (10 years +) and leavers (14 years +) continued throughout the year at the 54 schools in the division.

Re-examinations of children who at previous periodic or special examinations had been found to have defects, were made at each school medical inspection. During the year 3,414 periodic inspections were carried out. In addition 1,731 special inspections and re-examinations were made. When it is considered that the school population is 10,000 it will be realised over half of all children at school were examined at one time or another during the year.

General Condition of Children

All pupils at routine medical inspections are classified as to their general condition at the time of examination and 89.95% were classified as satisfactory and only 10.05% as unsatisfactory.

Uncleanliness

During the year Health Visitors and School Nurses made 21,126 examinations of children in schools. Of these 591 individual children were found to be infested.

SPECIAL CLINICS

Ophthalmic Clinics.

Mr. S.K. Sledge holds one session per week at the Pontefract Clinic at which children from all areas of the division attend. Due to the large numbers of children awaiting examination it has been necessary on occasions to hold additional sessions which have been held by Dr. J.V. Kirkwood, and during the year 1,136 children were examined. Of these, 430 were prescribed glasses.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics

Mr. K.M. Mayall holds fortnightly sessions at the Headlands Road Clinic for children from this division. During the year Mr. Mayall held 21 sessions and saw 129 children. In all, the children made 239 attendances.

Orthopaedic Clinics

Mr. R.W.L. Calderwood, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, holds a monthly clinic at the Headlands Road Clinic, and during the year 10 sessions were held. 139 children were seen at these clinics and the total number of attendances made was 185.

Child Guidance Treatment.

Dr. S.M. Leese, Consultant Psychiatrist, holds Child Guidance Clinics at the County Health Department, Wakefield, and during the year 19 children from this area attended there.

Ultra Violet Ray Treatment.

During the winter months, Ultra Violet Ray treatment sessions are held twice weekly at the Headlands Road Clinic, Pontefract. During the year, 47 children made 816 attendances for this treatment.

Speech Therapy

Miss K.M. Wade, Speech Therapist in this division, held 108 sessions at the Featherstone and Knottingley Clinics during the year. 46 children were treated.

Handicapped Pupils

The regular medical examination of handicapped children continued during the year and where necessary, recommendations were made for placement in Special Schools.

Medical Examination of Teachers and Entrants to Training College

It is the duty of the School Medical Officer to examine candidates applying for entry to training colleges for the purpose of satisfying the college authorities of their fitness to follow a course of teacher training. During the year 43 candidates were examined and where necessary x-ray examination arranged.

In the case of entrants to the teaching profession, 17 examinations were made.

B.C.G. Vaccination Against Tuberculosis

Vaccination against Tuberculosis was offered to all children in the year of their 13th birthday. With the consent of the parents a test is performed to see if the child has already encountered the germ of Tuberculosis. If it has done so, no further action is taken, as it is assumed that the child is acquiring a natural immunity. If, however, the test indicates that the child has not encountered tubercle bacillus, then vaccination is carried out.

The age of 13 years has been chosen because at this age the natural resistance to the disease tends to drop and it is hoped to confer protection during the years of increased risk.

During 1956 the following work was undertaken in the division:-

<u>No. of Consents issued.</u>	<u>No. of Consents Received.</u>	<u>Mantoux Test.</u>	<u>Mantoux Negative</u>	<u>Mantoux Positive</u>
1,545	836	805	571	224

B.C.G. Vaccination

571.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

At the beginning of the year the Government announced the introduction of a vaccine which was expected to confer a degree of immunity to Poliomyelitis. As the supply of vaccine was limited, Local Health Authorities were asked to make vaccination available in the first place only to children born in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive. In this division 8,000 forms were issued to parents either through the schools or direct to homes. Of these, 2,250 were returned and registered. Although supplies of vaccine were limited, vaccinations commenced in April and were continued until May. They were resumed in November.

During the year 220 children in the division had a complete course of protection, i.e. two injections.

HEALTH VISITING

During the year the following number of visits were made by Health Visitors in the division:

<u>No. of Children under 5 years of age visited during the year</u>	5613
Total visits made to expectant mothers	55
Total visits made to children under 1 year of age	6622
Total visits to children aged 1 and under 2 years	4653
Total visits to children aged 2 but under 5 years	5905
Total visits to tuberculous households	2036
Total families or households visited	5040
Other cases visited	6703

HOME NURSING

During the year 27,939 visits were paid by Home Nurses compared with 27,731 in the previous year.

The number of cases attended and visits made are shown below:-

Classification	No. of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year.	No. of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year.
(1) Medical	706	21369
(2) Surgical	227	5169
(3) Infectious Diseases	3	86
(4) Tuberculosis	33	1307
(5) Maternal complications	1	8
TOTALS	970	27939
Patients included in above who were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year	500	18535
Children included in above who were under 5 years of age at the time of the first visit during the year.	70	665
Patients included in above who have had more than 24 visits during the year	189	10402

HOME HELP SERVICE

The home help service is provided under the National Health Act, 1946. Section 29 of the act stipulates the class of case for which provision of a Home Help can be made. These are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| (a) Ill | (d) Expectant Mother |
| (b) Lying-in | (e) Mental Defective. |
| (c) Aged | (f) A child not over compulsory school age. |

Before a Home Help can be provided, a form of application must be signed by the head of the household on which he undertakes either to pay the whole cost of the service, or to give a statement of his income and agree to pay the assessed charge according to the County Council Scheme.

Under no circumstances can a Home Help be used as a sitter-in and the amount of assistance which a patient is granted is related strictly to the amount of domestic work which is required to be done.

The authorised establishment of Home Helps in this division was increased from 23 to 27 on the 1st October, 1956 and during the year the following assistance was given:-

Authorised Divisional Establishment

(i) Basic	22/27
(ii) From Reserve Pool	-
(iii) TOTAL	22/27

No. of Domestic Helps employed at 31st December.

(i) Whole-time	Nil
(ii) Part-time	39
(iii) TOTAL	39

Cases provided with Domestic Help during the year ended 31st December

	<u>No. of Cases.</u>	<u>Hours Employed</u>
(i) Maternity (including expectant mothers)	58	3871
(ii) Tuberculosis	9	1747
(iii) Chronic sick - (a) Aged 65 +	209	40140
(b) Under 65	58	5057
(iv) Others	-	-
TOTALS	334	50815

Number of Home Helps that could have been employed full-time. 22.2

MENTAL HEALTH

The mental health work in the division consists mainly of the supervision of defectives under Voluntary and Statutory Supervision, and in the provision of reports on home conditions to Hospital Management Committees. The nearest Occupation Centre to this area is at Castleford and at the end of the year 15 children from this area were attending there. For the children who are considered unsuitable for the Occupation Centre, group training classes are held twice weekly at the Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley Clinics, where the Home Teacher, Mrs. Argile provides training in handicrafts of various sorts.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR SUPERANNUATION PURPOSES

New entrants to the County Council Service are required to undergo a medical examination to see if they are suitable for admission to the Superannuation Scheme, and during the year I examined 70 candidates. In addition 1 member of the County Staff resident in the Divisional area who had been off duty through sickness for a considerable period was examined to ascertain whether or not he was incapable of continuing employment by reason of permanent ill-health.



BOROUGH OF PONTEFRACT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

Year Ended the Thirty-First December, 1956

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

including statistics prepared pursuant
to the requirements of the Sanitary Officers
(Outside London) Regulations, 1935

Chief Public Health Inspector:

LEWIS WALSH, M.A.P.H.I.

Municipal Offices,
Pontefract.

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Borough of Pontefract

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, 1956

Mrs. Pritchard and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you this my Nineteenth Annual Report in which are given facts and figures relating to the several activities of the Department during 1956. A Table of Contents is given to enable reference to particular aspects of the work to be made, and in this Preface I comment briefly on some of the more salient features of the Report.

Under the three main headings of the Report - Housing, Control of Food Supplies, and Air Pollution - new legislation has become operative during the year which will affect considerably the activities of the Department. The Housing Subsidies Act, 1956, clears the way towards the more expeditious removal of the remaining slum conditions in the Borough. The Clean Air Act, 1956, provides under an imaginative title, machinery for reducing pollution of the air: not only industrialists, but the occupiers of all premises (including, for the first time, private houses) may have responsibilities placed upon them. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, place upon food traders and their employees additional responsibilities for the purpose of securing a still higher standard of food preparation and distribution.

The routine work of housing inspection, the repair of those houses found to be unfit but capable of being repaired at reasonable cost, and preparations for the demolition of those not suitable for repair, has continued throughout the year. Defective conditions have been remedied at 254 houses as the result of action by the Department, and 4 were closed. Before unfit houses can be closed other houses must be available for the families displaced; and it is the shortage of this alternative accommodation that has held up progress in slum clearance. The Report gives particulars of the position which, at the time of writing, shows more promise.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, received the Royal Assent on the 5th July, and some sections of it came into operation on the 31st December. The provisions in force deal mainly with the installation of new industrial furnaces and the height of chimneys, the making of byelaws relating to heating and cooking appliances in new buildings, and with smoke control areas. Other provisions, not yet in force, deal with the prohibition of 'dark smoke' from chimneys, grit and dust emission, smoke nuisances, and smoke from railway engines.

Shortly after the coming into operation of parts of the Act, the Council gave consideration to the new provisions, and resolved: (1) that a byelaw be made requiring appliances in new buildings to be so constructed as to prevent, as far as practicable, the emission of smoke; (2) that consideration be given in December, 1957, to the establishment of a 'smoke control area' in the Borough; and (3) that consideration be given to solid-fuel-burning appliances on Council premises with the view to conversion, where practicable, to smokeless types.

The 'smoke control area' is the instrument by means of which the greatest improvement could be made to clean up the air of Pontefract. But this method is likely to be of limited application unless some solution of the concessionary coal problem can be found.

Food inspection and supervision have claimed much of the Department's time. The foods most likely to be a source of danger to health unless adequately controlled - meat and milk and certain of their products - were given routine attention. All food animals slaughtered in the Borough were given post-mortem examination, which resulted in the condemnation of $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons of diseased meat. Slaughtering was centralised at the Public Slaughterhouse, which was used to capacity; and unfit meat was disposed of with due regard for public safety. The Report outlines measures taken to safeguard the milk supply, and draws attention to the fact that all milk sold in the Borough is now bottled, and sold under special designation. In fact, at the time of writing the Borough has been included, under an Order made by the Ministers of Agriculture and Health, 'in a Specified Area in which it is now an offence to retail milk without the use of one of the special designations: 'Tuberculin Tested', 'Pasteurised' or 'Sterilised'.

The preparation and distribution of food in the Borough has received a good deal of attention. The new Food Hygiene Regulations have set a high standard, and there will be several years' work ahead before it can be said that all food premises are in conformity with it. The public is becoming increasingly food-hygiene conscious, and the shop with adequate show-case protection, attractive and readily-cleaned surfaces, good lighting, refrigeration where necessary, and staffed by people wearing clean protective-clothing and handling food and wrappers with due regard to hygiene - such a shop will find that hygiene pays.

The Report makes reference to the increasing popularity of the mobile shop, and the measures being taken to secure satisfactory standards. The sale of food in the open presents problems in this matter of food hygiene, and the well-designed mobile shop, adequately equipped, is certainly one solution.

During 1956, 485 specimens or samples were submitted to bacteriological or chemical laboratories in the course of the Department's duties, an increase of 43 on the previous year. These included water supplies for chemical composition and bacterial condition, swimming-bath waters for bacterial condition, deposit gauge contents and lead peroxide candles for atmospheric pollution investigation, milks for presence of tuberculosis, heat-treated milks - pasteurised and sterilised - for efficiency of treatment, milks for cleanliness, ice-cream for bacterial grading, specimens for confirmation of meat inspection opinions, for food poisoning organisms, etc., and samples of filling materials taken under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

PART A

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies

A sufficient and constant supply of wholesome water was distributed throughout the district by the Corporation during the year, the supply for domestic use being of the order of 29 gallons per head per day.

The supply was sampled regularly both for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. 35 samples of chlorinated water going into supply were submitted to bacteriological examination, and all were reported upon as Class 1 waters.

Forty-nine samples of waters taken from source, before chlorination, were classified as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1. Bacteriological Classification of Water Samples

Source of raw water	No. of samples falling into the classes named:				Total samples taken
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	
Heck	11	-	-	-	11
Roall	12	1	1	-	14
Eggborough	12	-	-	-	12
Tanshelf	12	-	-	-	12

The result of the bacteriological examination of a water is given as the number of coliform organisms per 100 millilitres of the water, and the standard set down by the Ministry of Health for non-chlorinated pipes supplies is as follows:-

<u>Class No.</u>	<u>Presumptive coli count</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Less than 1	Highly satisfactory
2	1 - 2	Satisfactory
3	3 - 10	Suspicious
4	More than 10	Unsatisfactory

Throughout the year 50% of the samples taken should fall into Class 1, 80% should not fall below Class 2, and the remainder should not fall below Class 3. The following Table sets out the standard reached by unchlorinated waters sampled from the respective sources, as given in Table 1.

Table 2. Comparison of Waters with Prescribed Standard

% of Samples falling into -	Prescribed Standard %	Sources of Supply			
		Heck %	Roall %	Eggborough %	Tanshelf %
Class 1	Not less than 50	100	86	100	100
Classes 1 and 2	Not less than 80	100	93	100	100
Class 3	Not more than 20	-	7	-	-
Class 4	0	-	-	-	-

Twenty-eight samples (including four taken direct from each of the principal sources) were submitted to chemical analysis and reported upon as being of good organic quality.

All the houses in the Borough are connected to the public supply. Only five houses are served by outside stand-pipes, and these properties are scheduled for clearance under provisions of the Housing Acts.

Swimming Baths. Bacterial Control of Water

Samples were taken weekly from the waters of both swimming baths to ensure the maintenance of satisfactory conditions. 116 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and chemical tests were made on each sampling occasion to ascertain 'free chlorine' content and alkalinity. The results are given in the following Table along with the respective standards recommended by the Ministry of Health. They indicate that a high standard was maintained.

Table 3 Swimming Baths Waters: Results of Examinations

	Standard recommended by Ministry of Health	Results from swimming baths	
		Large Swim	Small Swim
No. of samples taken	-	58	58
No. of samples containing coliform organisms in 100 ml. water	0	3	1
Percentage of number of samples submitted to plate count and containing in 1 ml. water -			
(a) 0 - 10 colonies	not less than 75%	91%	96%
(b) 11 - 100 colonies	not more than 25%	7%	4%
(c) over 100 colonies	0%	2%	0%
Percentage of number of tests for residual chlorine content showing -			
(a) less than 0.2 ppm	0%	0%	0%
(b) 0.2 ppm or more	100%	100%	100%
Percentage of number of tests for pH value (alkalinity) -			
(a) between 7.2 and 8.0	100%	100%	100%
(b) outside these limits	0%	0%	0%

General Sanitation

All built-up areas in the Borough are sewered: records indicate that less than 40 houses are not connected to sewers; these being in isolated places where the sewer is not available. Sanitary accommodation is almost entirely water-carriage: the 22 conveniences of other types represent only a fraction of one per cent of the total.

Although the Borough has modern main sewerage, the drainage systems connecting buildings with sewers are often obsolete in design. Improvements are being effected gradually, and figures relating to inspections made, and notices served, are to be found in Part III of this Report.

With the exception of three properties still served by privy-middens (abolition of which is now within sight) all premises in the Borough where domestic refuse is produced are served by metal dustbins of approved specification. The Corporation have not adopted a Municipal Bin Scheme of the type envisaged by Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936. When new bins are required, notice pursuant to sub-section 1 of this section, as amended by Section 69 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, is served on the owner or occupier of the property, after consideration of the facts known to the Corporation.

Offensive Trades

Offensive trades within the meaning of section 107(1)(i) of the Public Health Act, 1936, are carried on at two premises in the Borough, the trades concerned being those of bone boiler, fat extractor, fat melter, fellmonger, glue-maker, size-maker, and tripe-boiler. A further trade carried on is that of concentration and sterilisation of vegetable and animal waste, declared by the Council to be an offensive trade pursuant to their powers under paragraph (ii)(b) of the sub-section.

One of the premises is conducted with a maximum of efficiency: arrangements for the treatment of offensive effluvia were improved during the year, and the Council were able to renew without question their consent to establishment. The conduct of the second of the two businesses left something to be desired. On several occasions nuisance arose due to lax control of the plant: the overloading of concentrators, the inadequacy of chlorine dosage, the inadequacy of water for condensing during processing - all these failures were noted at one time or other; and at times the general conduct of the business, in particular regarding the cleanliness of premises and the control of fly-infestation, gave cause for complaint. The Health Committee have this business under careful consideration. Prompt notification from residents in the area, as and when nuisance arose, would greatly assist the Department; but only one resident took this step during the year.

Despite this somewhat adverse report, I am of opinion that generally the situation was an improvement on recent years. It is the occasional lapse that spoils the picture.

Factories, Workplaces and Shops

Arrangements for the health and comfort of workers in their places of employment have again received attention during the year. The routine inspection of factories and shops has been continued and on no occasion was it found necessary to resort to statutory action to secure improvements.

The term 'factory' as used in the Factories Act, 1937, includes all premises where articles are made, altered or repaired for purposes of gain, and I append a list of the different trades carried on in the premises registered as factories:-

Automobile engineering	Glue and size making
Baking	Grain and seed processing
Barley processing	Laundering
Beer bottling	Liquorice confectionery
Boot repairing	manufacture and packing
Box and packing material	Malting
manufacture	Milk pasteurisation
Brush making	Monumental masonry
Building	Photography
Burling and mending	Printing
Clothes manufacture	Saddlery
Coal-gas distribution	Sawmill
Fat refining	Tailoring
Fellmongering	Tinsmith
Founding	Upholstering
Furniture manufacture	Whitesmith
and polishing	Wire goods manufacture

The register of Factories kept by the Council pursuant to section 8(3) of the Act contains particulars of 96 factories, and Table 4 gives information relating to inspections, notices, and of defects found and remedied.

Table 4 Factories Records, 1956

	Number on Register	Inspect- ions made	Number of written notices	Defects	
				Found	Remedied
(1) Factories without mechanical power (in which sections 1 to 4 and 6 and 7 of the Act are enforced by local authorities)	6	7	1	1	1
(2) Factories with mechanical power (in which section 7 is enforced by local authorities)	90	131	18	115	94
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by local authorities	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	96	138	19	116	95

The provisions of section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, relating to means of escape in case of fire, apply in the case of 29 of the 96 factories in the Borough. The respective occupiers of these premises hold the appropriate certificates granted by the Council. One new certificate and ten amended certificates were issued during the year.

The term 'workplace' as used in the Public Health Act, 1936, comprises offices, restaurant kitchens and various other premises in which persons are employed; but excludes factories and (except for 'overcrowding' purposes) shops to which the Shops Act, 1950, applies. Routine inspection of these premises was not made, but when unsatisfactory conditions came to notice the requisite remedial measures were taken.

The term 'shop' includes warehouses used in connection with wholesale or retail trade, refreshment houses, lending libraries and hairdressing establishments. There are 389 shop premises on the Register, and the Shops Act, 1950, applies to some two-thirds of these. 67 visits for the investigation of welfare arrangements were made in 1956. In no case was it necessary to resort to statutory procedure to secure the remedy of defects.

Air Pollution

There are three major classes of air pollution: domestic smoke, industrial smoke, and smoke from vehicles - both rail and road. Some 40,000 tons of coal are burned each year in domestic grates in the Borough, 1,000 tons of which finds its way into the atmosphere in the form of smoke. This is widely distributed at a low level from some 8,000 chimneys, and the comparatively low temperatures at which it is produced give it a high content of objectionable 'tarry matter'. It is this source of pollution which so often gives rise to the housewife's complaint, 'Pontefract is a dirty town'. I estimate that some two-thirds of this pollution comes from homes which qualify for 'concessionary' coal. It would be in the interests of public health and welfare for the community to pay the mine-worker a handsome compensation for the surrender of even part of this concession. I believe that very few miners' wives living in modern houses would refuse the equivalent of effective-heat-value in units of gas, electricity or smokeless solid fuel.

Local industry also, burns some 40,000 tons of coal every year. There are 36 industrial furnaces in the Borough, 25 of which are fed by mechanical stokers, and causing little trouble to the Department. The rest are hand-fired, but capable of being operated to a degree of efficiency which is sufficient to keep smoke emission down to byelaw requirements. Some of this plant however, needs constant stoking attention to prevent excessive smoke emission. Managements, these days, are not insensible to the need for fuel-efficiency - a term synonymous with 'smoke-abatement' - and in several cases development schemes are under consideration.

So much more efficient is industrial plant over the average domestic appliance that not more than 225 of the 40,000 tons of coal used in industry is likely to find its way into the atmosphere as smoke. It is interesting to note (following my comment on concessionary coal) that the boiler plant at the one colliery in the Borough is among the most efficient in the town, and presents no smoke problem.

The several industrial chimneys in the Borough were observed from time to time during the year, and the number of formal 30-minute observations made was 160. Your Smoke Byelaws allow an aggregate emission of up to two minutes black smoke from industrial chimneys within any continuous period of thirty minutes. Emission in excess of this is presumed to be a nuisance, and on this standard 8 nuisances were noted during the aggregate observation-period of 80 hours. Statutory notices were served in two cases.

I have referred in previous reports to the increasing nuisance from diesel smoke from heavy road vehicles. This is a matter outside the province of the local authority. I wish people would take the trouble to report bad cases to the Police. Provision for dealing effectively with smoke nuisance from railway engines is made in the new Clean Air Act, although the particular section is not yet in force. This matter will no doubt receive considerable attention during the next few years.

PART B

HOUSING

General Conditions and Overcrowding

Since post-war house building began, 2,112 houses have been erected in the Borough, 80 of these during the year under review, as detailed in Table 5.

Table 5 New Housing Progress 1946 - 1956

Year	No. of houses erected -					
	By the Corporation			By Private Enterprise	By Housing Association	Total
	Permanent	Temporary	Total			
1946	0	60	60	23		83
1947	164		164	29		193
1948	169		169	25		194
1949	137		137	15		152
1950	104		104	13		117
1951	86		86	10		96
1952	106		106	13		119
1953	107		107	23	178	308
1954	75		75	42	536	653
1955	31		31	57		88
1956	29		29	80		109
Totals	1,008	60	1,068	330	714	2,112

The total number of dwellings in the Borough is 7,493 serving a population of 24,540. As will be shown later in the Report, there is little gross overcrowding in the Borough. This does not alter the fact that many families are still sharing houses with in-laws and others; and that rehousing is still an urgent matter in many such cases. Overcrowding, in terms of numbers of persons occupying houses in excess of 'permitted numbers' as fixed by law, is a readily measurable quantity; but assessment of the mental strain and stress which can be occasioned by house-sharing is not easily made, and may have little to do with numbers. During the past two years, almost 200 applications for the tenancy of Corporation houses have been received in respect of families living in lodgings.

In this Report 'statutory overcrowding' means the gross state of overcrowding when an offence against the Housing Act, 1936, is committed unless tenant and landlord take steps as prescribed by the Act to secure abatement. Such overcrowding occurs when the number of persons sleeping in a house exceeds the 'permitted number' of persons as given in the rent book.

The number of known cases of statutory overcrowding has fallen slightly during the year: 2 new cases of overcrowding were added to the register and 5 were removed consequent upon abatement. The numbers of cases found and abated during the past five years are given in Table 6.

Table 6 Incidence and Abatement of Overcrowding

No. of cases	Year				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
On register at beginning of year	12	9	12	10	7
Added to register during the year	4	6	7	3	2
Abated during the year	7	3	9	6	5*
On register at end of year	9	12	10	7	4**

* No. of persons concerned in these cases: 40

** No. of families living in these dwellings: 6 (42 persons)

Inspection, Repair and Clearance of Unfit Houses

Particulars of the Department's Housing Activities:

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year

(1)(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 299

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 818

(2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 33

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 33

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices

Number of defective dwellinghouses made fit or in which defects were remedied as the result of informal action by the Department 193

3. Action under statutory powers during the year

(1) Proceedings under sections 9,10,16, Housing Act, 1936

(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs 11

(b) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices 11

(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 24

(b) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices 28

(3)(a)	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of individual dwellinghouses unfit for habitation	9
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(c)	Number of dwellinghouses closed	2

Slum Clearance Programme

As required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, the Council had submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, in 1955 their proposals for dealing with houses which appeared to be unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Act. These provided for the demolition or closing of 200 houses within the period, September 1955 - September 1965.

Having regard to the estimated rate of new building, and to the Council's housing commitments, other than those towards persons displaced from unfit houses, these proposals provided a realistic target, and could be speeded up if found practicable.

In March the Housing Subsidies Act, 1956, received the Royal Assent, one of its main purposes being to facilitate and encourage the replacement of slums. The Council subsequently decided to increase substantially the amount of new construction to be allocated to the rehousing of tenants from unfit houses; the Clearance Programme should, therefore, be completed correspondingly earlier. At the time of writing no fewer than 60 unfit houses, 30% of the number included in the Proposals, have been represented, and proceedings are at various stages.

Certificates of Disrepair

Section 26(1) of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which was in operation throughout the year, provided that the tenant of any house subject to a rent increase for repairs could apply to the Local Authority for a certificate that the following conditions justifying an increase of rent were not fulfilled:

- (a) that the dwellinghouse is in good repair, and
- (b) that it is reasonably suitable for occupation having regard to stability, freedom from damp, natural lighting, ventilation, water supply, drainage and sanitary conveniences, facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of water;

and the local authority, if satisfied that the dwellinghouse failed to fulfil either or both of these conditions, was required to certify accordingly. The following Table gives particulars of applications made from the inception of the Act, and of the results:

Table 7 Certificates of Disrepair

Year	Certificates of Disrepair			Certificates of Revocation		
	Applied for	Granted	Refused	Applied for	Granted	Refused
1954	3	2	1	0	-	-
1955	11	4	7	4	4	-
1956	1*	-	-	1	1	-

* Subsequently withdrawn.

The preamble of this Act described it as providing (among other things) for promoting the maintenance of houses. There is little doubt that, so far as this Borough at least is concerned, the Act has failed in this purpose. At the time of writing, the Rent Act, 1957, has recently become operative: it remains to be seen whether its provisions will provide a greater incentive.

Improvement Grants

There has been a considerable reduction in the number of applications for improvement grants, due largely to the Council's decision in June to cease making grants for the time being. Particulars of the number of applications made since the inception of the scheme are given in the following Table:

Table 8 Improvement Grants

Year	No. of Applications-			No. of approved Applications withdrawn	Grants actually made	
	Made	Approved	Rejected		No.	Total amount £
1949 to 1953	0	-	-	-	-	-
1954	2	1	-	-	-	-
1955	22	19	4	3	3	317
1956	4	2	2	-	10	1559

The Corporation's Halfpenny Lane Estate Improvement Scheme, which was started in 1953, made no progress during the year under review. The position at the beginning of 1956 was that 74 houses had been improved, leaving 23 to be dealt with. In April, 1956, the Council resolved to carry out when practicable, improvement to the remaining houses. The work had not been started at the end of the year, although at the time of writing it is in progress.

PART C

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

Meat Supply

All animals slaughtered in the borough for food were slaughtered at the Public Slaughterhouse, the Council having resolved in October 1954 that private slaughtering should not be carried on. Not all meat sold in Pontefract was, however, slaughtered in the district; and in addition, therefore, to the routine inspection of meat at the Public Slaughterhouse, inspections were made from time to time of meat from outside sources exposed for sale in shops in the Borough. On no occasion was it necessary to seize and condemn as unfit meat so exposed.

The Public Slaughterhouse was operated on a self-supporting basis, and Table 9 gives particulars of throughput during the period under review. From this it will be noted that the slaughterhouse was used to the extent of its nominal capacity of sixty cattle units.

Table 9 Throughput at Public Slaughterhouse

Four weeks ended-	Throughput: class of animal					Mean weekly No. of * cattle units	% of nominal capacity
	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total		
28th January	44	3	240	346	633	67	111
25th February	65	9	183	321	578	66	110
24th March	64	4	167	249	484	56	93
21st April	72	10	76	242	400	53	88
19th May	124	3	47	301	475	71	118
16th June	86	4	48	195	333	49	82
14th July	65	2	232	171	470	50	83
11th August	62	5	203	186	456	49	82
8th September	101	6	319	219	645	69	116
6th October	78	3	236	218	535	59	98
3rd November	81	20	262	277	640	70	117
1st December	121	19	193	367	700	87	145
29th December	90	13	146	305	554	67	112
Near Average	81	8	181	261	531	63	104

* One cattle unit being equivalent to three calves, five sheep or two pigs

A total of 9 carcasses, 106 part carcasses and 380 organs and parts were condemned, their total weight being 4 tons, 6 cwt., 3 qtrs., 20 lbs. Whilst every precaution is taken to prevent unfit meat from reaching the consumer, equal care is taken to ensure that no meat is unnecessarily condemned. Table 10 gives particulars of the various classes of animals inspected and of condemnations.

Table 10 Record of Meat Inspection and Incidence of Disease

Class of Animal	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1021	64	101	2346	3379
Number inspected	1021	64	101	2346	3379
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned	9	0	2	1	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	90	7	0	25	67
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	8.7	10.9	2.0	1.1	2.0
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	0	1	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	73	12	0	0	41
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.3	18.7	0.9	-	1.3
Cysticerci:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	0	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	11	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

In carcasses the principal cause of condemnation was tuberculosis, 62% of the total weight of meat condemned from all causes being due to this infection. The 11 beast carcasses found to be affected with cysticercus bovis, give a percentage incidence of 1.08. In all cases the invasion was localised and, before being released for human consumption, carcasses and organs were subjected to refrigeration. Table 11 gives comparative figures.

Table 11 Incidence of Cysticercus bovis

Year	No. of cases	% Incidence
1952	28	1.22
1953	43	1.70
1954	37	2.48
1955	9	1.53
1956	11	1.08

Milk Supply

As required by Article 8(1) of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, a register is kept of all persons carrying on the trade of milk distributor in the Borough, and of all premises in the district which are used as dairies (except dairy farms, which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.) Table 12 gives particulars of the changes which took place during the year, and of the position at the end of the year.

Table 12 Registration of Dairies and Milk Distributors

Particulars of changes	Dairies	Distributors	
		From Shops*	Others
No. on register at 1st January	3	45	22
No. in respect of which application was made	2	4	0
No. in respect of which applicant was opposed on Public Health grounds	0	0	0
No. added to register	2	4	0
No. removed from register			
(a) Trading ceased	0	6	2
(b) Public Health grounds	0	0	0
No. on register at 31st December	5	44	20

*Only bottled 'Sterilised' milk sold in these cases

All milk sold in the Borough is bottled, and sold under special designation. 105 licences under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-1954, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-1953, were issued during the year authorising the sale of graded milks. 22 of these were in respect of 'Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)'. 22 in respect of 'Pasteurised' and 61 in respect of 'Sterilised' milk.

Fifty-five samples of milk of various grades were taken during the course of the year to ensure compliance with the standards laid down in the Regulations. The number of samples taken, all reported upon as satisfactory, are given in Table 13.

Table 13 Graded Milks: Sampling Records

Grade of milk	Test Applied		
	Methylene Blue	Phosphatase	Turbidity
Pasteurised	38	38	-
Sterilised	-	-	6
T.T. Pasteurised	11	11	-

Ten samples of ungraded milk, direct from farms and prior to pasteurisation, were taken for biological examination for the detection of tuberculosis: negative results were recorded in each case.

Generally, the standard of distribution is satisfactory. Minor violations of the Milk and Dairies Regulations have been noted, but formal action has been unnecessary. Conditions at the registered dairies are satisfactory.

The cleanliness of milk containers was given attention during the year. At a local dairy where several thousands of bottles are filled daily, 42 cleaned, empty bottles were subjected at intervals to bacteriological examination. A bacterial count of not more than 600 indicates a satisfactory bottle, and in the cases tested the highest count was 360, and the average below 60.

The cleanliness of churns at the same establishment was also tested. A colony count per churn of not more than 50,000 is considered satisfactory, 250,000 fairly satisfactory, and over 250,000 unsatisfactory: 16 churns were tested: one was placed in the 'unsatisfactory' class, 2 in the 'fairly satisfactory' class, and 13 in the 'satisfactory' class with counts ranging from 0 to 35,000, the average being 4,500.

Ice-cream Manufacture and Sale

As required by Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, a register is kept of all premises used for the sale, or the manufacture or storage for sale, of ice-cream. Table 14 gives particulars of the changes which took place during the year, and of the position at the end of the year.

Table 14 Registration of Ice-cream Premises

Particulars of changes	Sale and storage only	Manufacture, sale and storage
1. No. on Register at 1st January	63	2
2. No. in respect of which application was made	3	0
3. No. in respect of which application was refused	0	-
4. No. added to register	3	-
5. No. of registrations cancelled		
(a) following offences	0	0
(b) Ceased to trade	4	0
6. No. of changes of occupation of registered premises notified	1	0
7. No. on Register at 31st December	62	2

Ice-cream premises have been visited as far as possible for inspection and for sampling purposes. Only a fraction of ice-cream sold in the Borough is manufactured here. Two factories are registered, but one was used for storage only. At the other the 'complete cold mix' method was used. The remaining registered premises are those at which ice-cream is sold - shops with adequate refrigeration facilities, selling only pre-packed ice-cream. A satisfactory standard of hygiene is maintained.

Eight manufacturers (seven from outside the Borough) sell ice-cream from vehicles in the Borough. The persons actually selling from these vehicles are registered with the Council as food hawkers (see section of Report headed 'Food Sold in the Open Air'). In each case the vehicle must meet the standard laid down by the Council, which includes the provision of a hot-water unit for handwashing, and all other practicable measures for preventing contamination of the ice-cream.

No offences under the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, in relation to manufacture, storage or sale have been noted.

There is still no test for the bacteriological grading of ice-cream which is considered satisfactory for use as a statutory test, but on the Provisional Grading at present practised, 57 samples of ice-cream taken during the year may be grouped as follows:- 49 fall into Grade 1; 7 into Grade 2; none into Grade 3, and 1 into Grade 4. No sample should fall into Grade 4: the offending sample had not been manufactured in the Borough, and the matter was taken up with the outside authority concerned. Regarding other grades it is interesting to compare (see Table 15) (1) the official standard, (2) the position in 1947 when the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, came into operation; (3) the position in 1955, and (4) figures for the present year:-

Table 15 Ice-cream Grading

Grade	Official Standard % (1)	Figures for -		
		1947 % (2)	1955 % (3)	1956 % (4)
1	Not less than 50	37	76	86
1 and 2	Not less than 80	63	91	98
3	Not more than 20	37	7	-

Food Inspection

In addition to the inspection of meat at the Public Slaughterhouse shops have been visited from time to time for the inspection of meat and other foods. No single large consignment of food has been condemned, although over the period under review the following total quantities of unfit food were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

1,207 lbs.	meats
236 lbs.	vegetables
71 lbs.	fruits
37 lbs.	fish
56 lbs.	liquid egg
11 lbs.	margarine
47 tins	milk

193 certificates were issued to enable traders to claim from wholesalers for loss of foods condemned.

Diseased meat condemned at the Public Slaughterhouse is disposed of (after treatment with a green dye) at a local factory, where it is sterilised and used in the manufacture of animal feeding-stuffs. Other condemned foods are suitably disposed of by burial on one of the Corporation-controlled refuse tips.

Food Premises

The conditions under which food for sale is prepared and handled in the various factories, warehouses, shops, restaurants and hotels in the Borough is one of the major concerns of the Department. The coming into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, gave an added impetus to this work; much preliminary work was done, and 93 visits had been paid to food premises before the year ended.

The numbers of the different classes of food premises in the Borough, as at the end of the year, are listed in the following Table.

Table 16 Food Premises analysed according to Trade

Trade	Manufacture or Preparation	Distribution	
		Retail	Wholesale
Restaurants, etc.	9		
Institution kitchens	4		
Canteens, school and factory	10		
Hotels, clubs, etc.		53	
Mineral-water and beer bottling etc	3		
Bread and confectionery	8	9	
Sugar confectionery and sweets	5	19	1
Dairies		5	
Ice-cream	2		
Grocery and mixed		87	2
Butchery		17	
Meat Products	12		
Fish frying	23		
Tripe boiling and fat refining	1		
Poultry dressing			1
Fruit and vegetables		6	5
Fish (also fruit and vegetables		10	
Fish curing	1		
Chemist		5	
Total	78	211	9

Ninety-one of these premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955: 64 of these, as already indicated, are ice-cream premises, the remaining 27 being registered for the manufacture of made-up meats etc. Only 15 of these are, however, at present used for purposes requiring registration. 53 inspections of registered premises were made during the year.

The Department has again concentrated on its statutory responsibilities under the Food and Drugs Acts, and Regulations and Byelaws made thereunder, rather than on the organisation of Exhibitions or Clean Food Guilds. As much time as possible has been spent with food handlers at the place of employment, stressing the fundamentals of hygienic processing and handling.

The following Table gives some figures indicative of the Department's activities in this field, but it will be realised in work of this type figures have a limited significance.

Table 17 Inspection of Food Premises

Year	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. of visits paid to food premises	225	221	123	93
No. of food rooms inspected	588	537	180	199
No. of offences noted under				
(a) Food Hygiene Regulations	-	-	-	313
(b) Section 13 (prior to 1956)	140	152	78	
No. of such offences outstanding at end of year	86	12	32	228
No. of offences against the byelaws	104	74	21	15
No. of byelaw offences outstanding at end of year	47	3	10	11

The new provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations have slowed down the rate of inspection: that this was unavoidable is indicated by the greatly increased number of offences noted. These offences often involved structural alterations or the fitting of new appliances, hence the large number outstanding at the end of the year. There is every indication that the improvement work involved has taxed the building resources available locally for this type of work.

Sale of Food in the Open Air

There was a time, or so it seems, when, so far as foods are concerned, only the green-grocer and the ice-cream merchant were mobile; but in recent years, as housing estates have spread farther away from the main shopping centres, all kinds of foods have found their way into the mobile shop. This has created problems for local authorities; the one which concerns this Department being that of hygienic food handling.

As required by section 76(1) of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, registers are kept of persons hawking food in the Borough, and of hawkers' storage premises. Table 18 gives particulars of the changes which took place during the year under review, and of the position at the end of the year.

Table 18 Registration of Food Hawkers and Storage Premises

Particulars of changes	Hawkers	Storage Premises
No. on Register at 1st January	67	9
No. in respect of which application was made	12	0
No. in respect of which application was refused	0	0
No. added to register	12	0
No. of registrations revoked -		
(a) following offence	0	0
(b) Ceased to trade	0	0
No. on register at 31st December	79	9

Table 19 analyses the number of registered food hawkers according to the various classes of trade.

Table 19 Food Hawkers according to trade

Trade	No. Registered	
	At 31st Dec.1956	Added during 1956
Butchery	16	10
General grocery	12	0
Green-grocery	20	0
Fish (and green-grocery)	3	0
Confectionery	17	2
Ice-cream	11	0
Total	79	12

The Council have made it a condition of registration (except in the case of those selling only green-grocery) that each mobile shop shall carry suitable apparatus for the provision of hot water, and other facilities, for hand-washing. The necessity for this was well exemplified in February, when a food hawker in the Borough was found to be a carrier of dysentery. He was required in pursuance of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953, to discontinue the handling of food for sale until it was considered safe for him to resume.

During the year 52 inspections of food hawkers vehicles were made. The vehicles range in style from modern, well-appointed mobile shops, elaborately designed for the purpose; by way of the ordinary delivery-van, converted for use as a shop; down to the green-grocer's cart, at the other extreme. The last named type leaves much to be desired; but large numbers of people buy from such vendors.

Investigation was also made into the conditions under which wholesalers were delivering bread and confectionery to retailers' premises. 13 vehicles were inspected, and several matters were taken up with those concerned. These investigations were made near the end of the year, and the subject will be discussed further in the next Annual Report.

PART D

MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES

Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers

As required by Section 120(1) of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, a register is kept of persons carrying on the business of hairdresser or barber on premises in the Borough. Table 20 indicates the position at the end of the year.

Table 20 Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers

Particulars of changes	Registered Premises
No. on Register at 1st January	22
No. added to register during 1956	0
Suspended or cancelled by court order during 1956	0
No. on Register at 31st December	22

It was found on one occasion that unregistered premises were being used. The person concerned preferred to cease business rather than meet the standard required. The premises were closed and the Council took no further action.

All registered premises were inspected during the year, the total number of inspections made being 46. 39 offences against the Byelaws and 8 against the Act (relating to the display of Certificates or Byelaws) were noted and reported to the Council. The deficiencies were remedied and apart from a warning, no action was taken against the offenders.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

This Act is designed to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles, and Regulations have been issued prescribing the standards of cleanliness applicable for the purpose of the Act in relation to the various kinds of filling materials used.

The Act provides for the registration with the local authority of premises where filling materials of types specified in the Act are used in manufacturing articles of upholstery, and creates a number of offences including the use of prescribed filling materials on unregistered premises and the presence of unclean filling materials on registered premises.

Two premises are registered with the Corporation. Of three samples of filling materials taken in 1956, and examined by the prescribed tests, 2 satisfied the statutory standards of cleanliness. In one case the result was unsatisfactory, but on hearing the explanation of the firm who supplied the particular consignment, the Council decided not to prosecute.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act provides for the licensing of pet animal shops by the local authority, who, before granting a licence, must be satisfied that animals will at all times be kept in accommodation suitable as respects size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness; be adequately supplied with suitable food and drink and (so far as necessary) visited at suitable intervals; that all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of diseases among animals, and that appropriate steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency.

At the beginning of the year there were four registered premises in the Borough, and a fifth was added in the course of the year. Conditions were satisfactory.

Rodent Control Service

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, so far as this relates to rodent infestation. Regular measures are taken to ensure as far as practicable the freedom from infestation of all premises under their control; owners and occupiers of infested properties are reminded of their responsibilities under the Act, and a Rodent Control Service is maintained by the Corporation, available to householders free of charge and to others at a charge which just covers the cost of treatment. The Act places on local authorities a specific duty to inspect their district for infestation, and roughly two-thirds of the senior rodent operative's time is spent on the discovery of infestations, and the organisation of treatments on 'block control' principles.

The menace of rat and mouse infestation to the public health and to our economy is not always fully realised. Several unpleasant diseases are associated with rodent infestation; whilst throughout the country, the annual lost by damage, particularly to foodstuffs, costs several million pounds. I cannot impress too strongly upon the occupiers of business premises, particularly premises on which food is prepared or handled for sale, the need for attention in the case of even the smallest infestation.

The following Table gives statistics relating to the known incidence of infestation and to disinfection measures taken during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1957.

Table 21 Rodent Control Statistics

	Class of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling-houses *	Agricultural	Business and Industrial	
Number of Properties in Local Authority's District	32	7302	48	1021	8403
No. of properties inspected as a result of -					
(a) Notification	1	54	0	23	78
(b) Survey under the Act	25	125	48	411	609
(c) Otherwise	3	48	0	118	169
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by -					
(a) Rats: Major	3	0	1	0	4
Minor	7	23	5	25	60
(b) Mice: Major	1	0	0	4	5
Minor	3	48	0	65	116
No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority	14	70	6	90	180
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	30	74	9	130	243
No. of 'Block' control schemes carried out					16

The Council have continued their membership of the Yorkshire Rodent Control Planning and Advisory Committee and whose functions include those of stimulating and maintaining interest and activity throughout the area in rodent control administration.

* Excluding houses combined with businesses.

TABULAR STATEMENT

Complying with Article 27 of the Sanitary
Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935

A. Nature and Number of Inspections made by the Corporation's
Public Health Inspectors and assistant staff during 1956.

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>Public Health Act, 1936</u>	
Regulated Premises Inspections:	
Moveable dwellings and sites	3
Offensive trades	101
Workplaces (not factories)	4
Statutory Nuisance Inspections:	
Dwellinghouses	389
Other premises	20
Atmospheric Pollution:	
Industrial smoke observations	160
Pollution investigations (deposit and sulphur oxides sampling, etc.)	327
Verminous Infestation Inspections (including visits to prospective tenants of Corporation houses, and in the case of exchanges)	212
Infectious Disease, etc., Enquiries	35
General Sanitation and Drainage Inspections:	
Dwellinghouses	299
Other premises	21
Water supplies:	
Sampling - Public supplies	112
Swimming bath waters	120
Refuse Collection and Disposal Enquiries and Inspections	200
<u>Factories Act, 1937</u>	
Inspections of factories for Sanitary Conditions	138
Outworkers premises	2
Means of escape in case of fire	37
<u>Shops Act, 1950</u>	
Shops inspected for welfare provisions	67
<u>Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954</u>	
Housing Conditions:	
Inspections for housing defects and works in progress (excluding Public Health Act inspections)	449
Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations (included in above figure)	33
Inspections made in connection with Certificates of Disrepair	2

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, (continued)</u>	
Overcrowding:	
Case investigations	17
Dwellinghouses measured up for permitted number data	55
Improvement Grant Inspections and Enquiries	35
<u>Food and Drugs Acts, 1955</u>	
Meat Inspections:	
Visits to Abattoir for meat inspection	515
Number of carcasses examined at Abattoir	6,911
Milk Supplies:	
Investigations under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	89
Investigations under Special Designations Regulations, 1949 - 1954	50
Sampling	5
Ice-cream:	
Investigations under Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations -	
Manufacture	2
Retailing	17
Sampling	57
Other Foods:	
Visits to shops, etc., for food inspection	44
Food Premises Inspections:	
Pasteurising plant and dairies	18
Premises under Food Hygiene Regulations	93
Other investigations under Food Hygiene Regulations	65
Investigations under Food Handling Byelaws:	129
<u>Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949</u>	
Inspections of premises for infestation, hygiene proofing, etc., (mainly inspections made by Senior Rodent Operative)	1,429
Inspections under Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks Regulations	35
Sewer manholes tested for infestation	87
<u>Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951</u>	
Sampling and inspection of records	3
<u>Pet Animals Act, 1951</u>	
Inspection of premises and investigations following applications for licences	9
<u>West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951</u>	
Hairdressers' premises	46
Hawkers' vehicles and premises	61

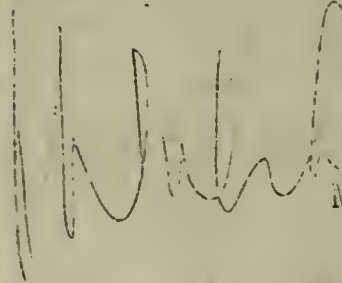
B. Number of Notices Served and the Result of Service

	No. of Informal Notices						No. of Statutory Notices				
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)
Act and Section under which or, in the case of informal notices, preliminary to which, notice was served	Outstanding from 1955	Served in 1956	Total of (a) and (b)	Complied with	Statutory notice subsequently served in 1956	Outstanding at end of 1956	Outstanding from 1955	Served in 1956	Total of (g) and (h)	Complied with	Work done by L.A.
					Not complied with						(l)
Public Health Act, 1936:											
(a) Dwellinghouses -											
Section 39, 44 and 45	12	80	92	78	10	4	3	12	15	14	1
" 50							1		1	1	
" 75	1	91	92	89	1	2	3	1	1	1	
" 93	10	55	65	50	9	6		10	13	11	2
(b) Other premises -											
Section 39	1		1	1			1	14	1	1	
" 93											
W.R.C.C.(G.P.) Act, 1953, sec. 53											
Housing Act, 1936:											
Section 9	13	42	55	35	11	9	3	11	14	11	3
Factories Act, 1937:											
Part One	2	19	21	14		7					
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:											
Section 4	4	88	92	87		5					
" 6		19	19	19							

Staffing

The establishment of Public Health Inspectors remains as fixed in 1938: two Inspectors in addition to myself. A vacancy occurred in July, and an interval of three months elapsed before it could be filled. I would pay tribute to the hard work of the staff- technical and clerical - throughout the year.

I am Mrs. Pritchard and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,



M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Municipal Offices,
Pontefract.

July, 1957.

